

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 185074  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05 L-03 OES-09  
EB-08 AGRE-00 /048 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:JLEWIS  
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP  
AF/W:RHOUEK  
FR/SFWA:HGRAY (IN DRAFT)  
-----020084 212155Z /75

O 212054Z JUL 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BANJUL PRIORITY

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM HARROP

E.O. 11652:XGDS-1

TAGS: PEPR, EAID, GA

SUBJECT:MOOSE BILATERALS IN GAMBIA

1. ISSUE - U.S. DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE TO GAMBIA

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: THE U.S. HAS BEEN A LEADER IN WORKING WITH THE PERMANENT INTER-STATE COMMITTEE FOR DROUGHT CONTROL (CILSS) AND THE CLUB DU SAHEL TO ESTABLISH A LONG-TERM MULTI-DONOR PROGRAM FOR THE SAHEL. ALL OF THE AID PROGRAMS IN THE GAMBIA ARE IN THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR AND UNDER THE CLUB/CILSS STRATEGY WHICH EMPHASIZES RAISING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY; NEW LANDS AND RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT; AND INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

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2. PRESENTLY, AID'S MAJOR ACTIVITY IN THE GAMBIA IS A SOIL AND WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT, WHICH INCLUDES MAJOR ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERVENTIONS. IN FY 1979 THREE NEW MAJOR PROJECTS ARE PROPOSED: MIXED FARMING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT; REFORESTATION; AND RURAL ROADS MAINTENANCE. THE LATTER IS A MULTI-DONOR PROJECT WITH THE WORLD BANK. IN ADDITION, DISCUSSIONS ARE PLANNED WITH

THE WORLD BANK FOR CONSORTIUM FINANCING OF PHASE II OF  
GAMBIA'S INNOVATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

TALKING POINTS

-- WE ARE PLEASED THAT OUR UNILATERAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS  
ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAMBIA AND  
THE SAHEL AS A WHOLE.

SENE-GAMBIA SALINITY BARRAGE

ESSENTIAL FACTORS: AID HAS PROVIDED, IN COOPERATION WITH  
SEVERAL OTHER DONORS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ADVANCE  
THE PLANNING AND INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY OF THE RIVER  
BASIN COMMISSION. THE BRITISH OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTRY HAS FINANCED, AT THE REQUEST OF THE GOVERNMENT  
OF THE GAMBIA, A PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A SALINITY  
BARRIER AND ROAD ACROSS THE GAMBIA RIVER. THE STUDY WILL  
INDICATE THE VALIDITY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF 27,000  
HECTARES OF IRRIGATION ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER AND  
A BRIDGE FOR THE TRANS-GAMBIAN HIGHWAY ACROSS THE RIVER.  
THE ROAD LINKS ACROSS THE RIVER ARE CONSIDERED VITAL  
NOT ONLY TO THE GAMBIA BUT TO THE SENEGALESE WHO PRESENTLY  
HAVE NO DIRECT ROAD CONNECTION WITH THEIR SOUTHERNMOST  
REGION (THE CASAMANCE).

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TALKING POINTS:

-- A COMMITMENT OF U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE SENE-GAMBIA  
SALINITY BARRAGE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE PREMATURE.

-- WE ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT FURTHER STUDY OF THE  
BARRIER AS WELL AS OTHER ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT POSSI-  
BILITIES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE ONGOING UNDP-  
SPONSORED MULTI-DONOR ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN SUPPORT  
OF THE SENE-GAMBIA COORDINATING COMMITTEE.

-- SHOULD THE PROPOSED BARRIER PROVE TO BE THE BEST  
SOLUTION TO THE AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS PRESENTLY CON-  
FRONTING THE GAMBIA AND THE TRANSPORT PROBLEMS CONFRONTING  
BOTH COUNTRIES, THE U.S. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO CONTRI-  
BUTE, ALONG WITH OTHER DONORS, TO THE REALIZATION OF  
THE EFFORT.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIEFING MATERIALS  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE185074  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** DG IS X1  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014